

## **Fire Safety Measures at The Sea Ranch**

### **The 2002 Fuel Management Program includes:**

Creation of Roadside Fuel Breaks along important access roads to provide safe evacuation and emergency access.

Construction of Downslope Calming Zones in portions of the eastern ridge to reduce fire intensity below homes most at risk.

Enlarged Highway 1 Fire Break by grading and disking, and Fuel Break by mowing in critical areas of the highway and by removal of ladder fuels. Mowing is done annually each spring before fire season begins.

Construction of a Reduced Fuel Zone east of the highway to slow fires burning up the ridge. These are connected to the Highway Fuel Break on the west side and, generally, to the Downslope Calming Zones to the east.

Construction of a Reduced Fuel Zone west of the highway to reduce chances that a fire entering the tree crowns where embers are produced can blow to the east side and start a fire there.

Enhancement of existing natural riparian vegetation along drainages to act as barriers to fire spread. Wet vegetation like willows can slow or reduce fire spread.

Removal of hazardous conifers from designated drainages to prevent them from acting as chimneys that could carry a fire to the ridge.

Extensive livestock grazing program to reduce fuel and thatch on both sides of the highway, slowing fires that do start, thereby making it harder to move into the trees and lowering potential flame lengths.

### **Additions to the FMP beginning in 2008-09 include:**

Expansion of fuel reduction work and debris pickup from along PG&E's power lines from Fish Hook to the Burbank Housing, from the North Fire Station south to the Lodge and at the Central Treatment Plant.

Creation of a Mineral Earth Fire Break from Annapolis Road to the Lodge on the east side of the highway.

Expansion of the number of Roadside Fuel Breaks to cul de sacs and mid slope roads south of Annapolis Road and east of the highway.

Increase in distance cleared for fuel reduction from 30' to 100' on cul de sacs and mid slope roads south of Annapolis Road and east of the highway.

Treatment of fringe areas around chimneys and ravines for fuel reduction and ladder fuel removal plus limbing up of shrubs and trees to create more separation.

Removal of pockets of dead and dying pines west of the highway at Deerfield and Longmeadow, west of the Shell Beach Parking Lot, on the east side of the highway at Vantage, Spur Close and from Whalebone to Deerfield, plus north and east of Headlands Close.

### **Other Programs Affecting Fire Safety Include:**

Funding by The Sea Ranch Association for CalFire and The Sea Ranch Volunteer Fire Department to inspect every home for creation of defensible space as dictated by PRC4291 during 2007-08 and again in 2008-09.

Streamlining of rules for encroachment and other permits for fuel reduction and defensible space work on commons and vacant lots adjacent to homes recommended by inspectors for PRC4291.

Expansion of seasonal Roadside Debris pick up program to year round effort to accommodate the work of homeowners trying to meet the rules and recommendations of the inspectors for PRC4291.

Annual maintenance and mowing of Fire/Fuel Break along east side of highway to reduce chances of fire spread. Usually done in spring and completed before fire season.

Fire Danger signs installed at three entrances to Sea Ranch to warn of high fire danger days. CalFire to monitor conditions, and Security to adjust signs as needed.

*Fire Safety Task Force*